

RENTON CITY COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting

May 1, 2000  
Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Council Chambers  
Municipal Building

MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Jesse Tanner led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and called the meeting of the Renton City Council to order.

**ROLL CALL OF  
COUNCILMEMBERS**

RANDY CORMAN, Council President; TONI NELSON; DAN CLAWSON; KATHY KEOLKER-WHEELER; DON PERSSON; KING PARKER; TIMOTHY SCHLITZER.

**CITY STAFF IN  
ATTENDANCE**

JESSE TANNER, Mayor; JAY COVINGTON, Chief Administrative Officer; LAWRENCE J. WARREN, City Attorney; MARILYN PETERSEN, City Clerk; GREGG ZIMMERMAN, Planning/Building/Public Works Administrator; SUSAN CARLSON, Economic Development Administrator; DENNIS CULP, Facilities Director; SYLVIA ALLEN, Parks Director; BETTY NOKES, Economic Development Director; ROB JENKINS, Senior Planner; MARK SANTOS-JOHNSON, Senior Planner; DEREK TODD, Finance Analyst; COMMANDER DENNIS GERBER, Police Department.

**PRESS**

Robert Teodosio, *Renton Reporter*

**APPROVAL OF  
COUNCIL MINUTES**

Councilmember Keolker-Wheeler requested that Council postpone approval of the minutes from April 24, 2000 pending inclusion of some of her comments.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

May, 2000 – “Foster Care Month”

A proclamation by Mayor Tanner was read, declaring the month of May, 2000 as “Foster Care Month” in the City of Renton, and urging all citizens to volunteer their talents and energies on behalf of children in foster care, foster parents, and the child welfare professional staff working with them during this month and throughout the year. MOVED BY CORMAN, SECONDED BY SCHLITZER, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE PROCLAMATION AS READ. CARRIED.

Ruth Graham, Foster Parent Liaison for South King County, accepted the proclamation.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Planning: Downtown  
Identification Sign Code  
Revisions

This being the date set and proper notices having been posted and published in accordance with local and State laws, Mayor Tanner opened the public hearing to consider an amendment to the Sign Code to exempt taller buildings with freeway orientation from the more restrictive sign regulations applicable in the Downtown Core.

Rob Jenkins, Senior Planner, explained that the current sign regulations for the Downtown Core, which is essentially comprised of low-rise buildings, were written to allow signs scaled for pedestrians and slow-moving automobiles. The proposed amendments consider that mid- and high-rise office buildings have different signage needs and a different aesthetic impact than small-scale, pedestrian-oriented retail buildings. The changes would allow buildings in the Downtown Core with heights of 40 feet or greater (four or more stories) to have freestanding and ground signs of up to 300 square feet per face. These taller buildings would also be able to have wall signs up to a maximum of 20% of the façade wall.

Explaining that these changes would simply apply the same city-wide standards to all mid- and high-rise non-residential buildings, Mr. Jenkins emphasized that

all other Downtown Core standards for signs will remain the same, and the prohibition on roof signs will not be lifted.

Another change would address temporary signage for businesses which must remove their permanent signage because of remodeling or construction activities. The temporary sign regulations would target promotion periods and be limited in the length of time they can be used. Banners of a specific size and number would be allowed, but only for the period of the valid building permit.

Responding to Council inquiry, Mr. Jenkins said the current restrictions limiting buildings to one sign per frontage (whether wall, freestanding or ground) would remain. He concluded that because the amendments will apply only to taller buildings, the pedestrian-oriented signage character of the Downtown Core will not change.

Councilmember Nelson asked why these changes are being proposed at this time. Noting that the maximum allowable building height in the downtown is 95 feet, Economic Development Administrator Sue Carlson said the City may receive a proposal to build a 100,000 square foot office building (seven stories) at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Main. Such a building would benefit by these amendments because it could have signage similar, for example, to Renton's City Hall signage. Ms. Carlson added that the new signs could be lit, but they would not be allowed to have moving characters. She concluded that a proposed wall sign for the 200 Mill Ave. building is 110 square feet.

In response to Councilman Parker, Mr. Jenkins said under the proposal, a taller building could have a wall sign up to 20% of the building façade. He reiterated that current City Code restricts a building to one sign per façade, whether this be a wall sign or a freestanding or ground sign. Councilman Persson felt that if it is done tastefully, a building should be allowed to have one wall sign up high, and another pedestrian-oriented sign on the ground level, even though both are displayed on the same frontage.

Councilmembers expressed the desire that the regulations be clear to alleviate confusion or misconceptions. Councilmember Nelson suggested that staff submit a visual graphic showing the difference between the type of sign which is currently allowed, and the kind that would be permitted under the proposed changes.

Councilman Corman did not want to accidentally restrict the signage currently allowed at the pedestrian street level. He was concerned that buildings not be unmarked at the street level because a large wall sign was installed high up on the facade. Mr. Jenkins replied that the Code will continue to allow secondary signs, which include projecting, marquee, traditional marquee, awning or canopy signs, in addition to the new larger signs.

Councilman Schlitzer wondered if the new signs should be restricted to buildings of six or seven stories high.

Mayor Tanner said the Administration has a few questions on this proposal to which it will seek answers from the City Attorney in the coming week.

Public comment was invited. There being none, it was MOVED BY SCHLITZER, SECONDED BY PARKER, COUNCIL CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING. CARRIED.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

Chief Administrative Officer Jay Covington reviewed a written administrative

**REPORT**

report summarizing the City's recent progress towards goals and work programs adopted as part of its business plan for 2000 and beyond. Items noted included:

- \* The Renton Historical Society's new fundraiser, an afghan with a historical city theme, is now available by calling 425-255-2330.
- \* In the coming weeks, Census Bureau workers will take a personal count of the 35% of Renton households that have not yet returned their census form.
- \* The Renton Municipal Arts Commission will host a free public reception from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. this Sunday, May 7th, at Carco Theatre for Renton artist John Lucas. The Renton Youth Symphony Orchestra's spring concert will follow at 7:00 p.m.

**AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Citizen Comment: Bang –  
Police Officer Traffic  
Infractions

Jessica Bang, 1319 S. Puget Dr. #D-33, Renton, 98055, expressed her desire to become a police officer after finishing high school. Saying she has witnessed officers in patrol cars speeding and failing to use their turn signals, Ms. Bang was concerned that law enforcement officers set a good example and obey the same laws as the rest of the population.

Chief Administrative Officer Jay Covington noted that, based on their color, the white patrol cars referred to by Ms. Bang belong to King County and not to Renton.

Renton Police Commander Dennis Gerber agreed that officers should not, and typically do not, respond with excessive speed. He added that officers should employ their flashing lights whenever they are purposely exceeding the speed limit in response to a call for service.

Councilman Schlitzer invited Ms. Bang and anyone else who may be interested in law enforcement to attend Renton's free Citizen's Academy, which offers instruction in the day-to-day operations of the police department and includes a ride-along in a patrol car.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Items on the consent agenda are adopted by one motion which follows the listing.

Appointment: Library Board

Mayor Tanner reappointed L. Gene Craig, 3204 Park Ave. N., Renton, 98056, to the Library Board for a five-year term expiring 6/01/2005. Council concur.

Appointment: Park Board

Mayor Tanner reappointed Robert F. Logue, 224 Powell Ave., Renton, 98055, and Marjorie Richter, 300 Meadow Ave. N., Renton, 98055, each to the Park Board for four-year terms expiring 6/01/2004. Council concur.

Appointment: Planning  
Commission

Mayor Tanner reappointed Richard Wagner, 2411 Garden Ct. N., Renton, 98056, to the Planning Commission for a three-year term expiring 6/30/2003. Council concur.

Vacation: Alley in 600 Block of  
Camas Ave (Korn/Born, VAC-  
00-002)

City Clerk submitted petition for vacation of an alley located between 621 and 625 Camas Ave. NE; petition received on 4/04/00 from Stephen Korn and John Born, accompanied by the required filing fee. Refer to Board of Public Works; set a public hearing on 5/22/00 to consider the petition. (See page 143 for resolution setting the public hearing.)

CAG: 00-064, Old City Hall  
Flood Wall Project

City Clerk reported bid opening on 4/26/00 for CAG-00-064, Old City Hall Flood Wall project; 11 bids; project estimate \$170,000; and submitted staff recommendation to award the contract to the low bidder, Stouder General Construction, in the amount of \$161,000. Refer to Community Services Committee for discussion of funding.

Parks: 1% for Arts Program,  
City Hall Selection (Hai Ying  
Wu)

Community Services Department recommended that the City commission Mr. Hai Ying Wu to create mosaic benches for the front walk of City Hall under Renton's 1% for Arts program. Refer to Community Services Committee.

Boards/Commissions:  
Municipal Arts Commission  
City Code Housekeeping  
Changes

Community Services Department requested approval of an ordinance amending Chapter 8 of Title II (Commissions and Boards) of City Code by making two housekeeping changes to the Municipal Arts Commission chapter. Council concur. (See page 143 for ordinance.)

MOVED BY CORMAN, SECONDED BY SCHLITZER, COUNCIL  
APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Citizen Comment: Armstrong  
et al. – SeaTac "Split East  
Turn" New Flight Path

Correspondence was read from Janet Armstrong, president of the Somerset Community Club, PO Box 5733, Bellevue, 98006, et al., urging the Port of Seattle Commission, the Port staff, and the Part 150 Study Committee to adhere to the original purpose and intention of the Part 150 Study, and reject the Split East Turn new flight path proposal.

Councilman Corman noted that the concerns contained in this letter echo ones previously expressed by Renton. Councilmember Keolker-Wheeler suggested that the signers of this letter be sent a copy of Renton's letter to the Part 150 Study Committee on this issue.

Citizen Comment: Bannecker –  
Utility Shutoff Policy

Correspondence was read from Randy Bannecker, Bannecker and Associates, 2240 E. Blaine St., Seattle, 98112, representing the Apartment Association of Seattle and King County. Mr. Bannecker said while he supported tenant notification of impending multi-family utility shutoffs, he urged that the landlord be told in advance that the City is prepared to inform the building's tenants of the potential shutoff. He believed this information would prompt many landlords to settle their past due accounts. Mr. Bannecker also suggested that the City liberalize its policy of service shutoff for failure to pay after 45 days from the date of billing. MOVED BY PARKER, SECONDED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, COUNCIL REFER THIS LETTER TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. CARRIED.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Planning & Development Committee**

Planning: Eating & Drinking  
Establishments in Regional  
Parks & Golf Courses

Planning & Development Committee Chair Keolker-Wheeler presented a report recommending that the Council adopt the proposed Code amendments allowing stand-alone eating and drinking establishments in both the Resource Conservation (RC) zone and the Residential – One Dwelling Unit per Acre (R-1) zone when such uses are located in a regional park or golf course, as well as creating new definitions for "neighborhood", "community", and "regional" parks. MOVED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, SECONDED BY CLAWSON, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED. (See page 143 for ordinance.)

Planning: Automall Overlay  
District Boundary Changes

Planning & Development Committee Chair Keolker-Wheeler presented a report recommending that the Council adopt the proposed Code amendments deleting approximately one and one-half blocks from Area A of the Automall, located between Seneca and Raymond Avenues SW, and redesignating this same area as Area B, as reflected on the modified map of the Automall Overlay District. Proposed modifications to the 1996 Automall Improvement Plan are to remain in Committee. MOVED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, SECONDED BY CLAWSON, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED. (See page 143 for ordinance.)

**Finance Committee**

Finance: Vouchers

Finance Committee Chair Parker presented a report recommending approval of Claims Vouchers 181327 - 181730, and two wire transfers totaling \$1,391,026.06. MOVED BY PARKER, SECONDED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS****Resolution #3454**

Vacation: Alley in 600 Block of Camas Ave (Korn/Born, VAC-00-002)

A resolution was read setting a public hearing on May 22, 2000, to vacate the alley located between 621 and 625 Camas Ave. NE (Stephen Korn/John Born, VAC-00-002). MOVED BY SCHLITZER, SECONDED BY PERSSON, COUNCIL ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AS READ. CARRIED.

The following ordinances were presented for first reading and referred to the Council meeting of 5/08/00 for second and final reading:

Boards/Commissions:  
Municipal Arts Commission  
City Code Housekeeping  
Changes

An ordinance was read amending Sections 2-8-2 and 2-8-4.B of Chapter 8, Municipal Arts Commission, of Title II (Commissions and Boards) of City Code by staggering the terms of commission appointments and by furnishing CIP proposals to the Community Services Department. MOVED BY CLAWSON, SECONDED BY PERSSON, COUNCIL REFER THE ORDINANCE FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING ON 5/08/00. CARRIED.

Planning: Automall Overlay  
District Boundary Changes

An ordinance was read amending Section 4-3-040 of Chapter 3, Environmental Regulations and Special Districts, of Title IV (Development Regulations) of City Code by amending the Auto Mall Improvement District regulations. MOVED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, SECONDED BY PERSSON, COUNCIL REFER THE ORDINANCE FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING ON 5/08/00. CARRIED.

Planning: Eating & Drinking  
Establishments in Regional  
Parks & Golf Courses

An ordinance was read amending Sections 4-2-060.C and E, 4-2-070.A and B, and 4-2-080.A of Chapter 2, Land Use Districts, and Section 4-11-160 of Chapter 11, Definitions of Title IV (Development Regulations) of City Code by amending the Resource Conservation (RC) and the Residential – One Dwelling Unit per Acre (R-1) zones to allow eating and drinking establishments in regional parks and golf courses. MOVED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, SECONDED BY PERSSON, COUNCIL REFER THE ORDINANCE FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING ON. CARRIED.

The following ordinance was presented for second and final reading and adoption:

**Ordinance #4837**

Parks: 200 Mill Ave S Tenant  
Improvements (2000 Budget  
Adjustment)

An ordinance was read amending the 2000 Annual Budget by increasing expenditure allowances in the amount of \$1,500,000 for tenant improvements to City facilities; facility operating costs; and to provide fund transfers and interfund loan authorities. MOVED BY PARKER, SECONDED BY PERSSON, COUNCIL ADOPT THE ORDINANCE AS READ. ROLL CALL: ALL AYES. CARRIED.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Transportation: I-405 Corridor  
Study & Improvements

Council President Corman reported that last week, three groups working to address traffic problems in the I-405 corridor met to discuss a ten-year plan for needed improvements. He noted that the I-405/SR-167 interchange was agreed to be in need of a major revision. One idea is to realign this section of I-405 so that two lanes (rather than just one) turn southbound onto 167.

Councilmember Keolker-Wheeler asked if the subject of further straightening the

“S” curves was discussed. Mr. Corman replied that while there was talk of adding one or two lanes to I-405, those present acknowledged the lack of right-of-way available for widening. They further understood that Renton officials are sensitive to the takings issue, given that several homes were lost as a result of the last “S” Curves project.

Mrs. Keolker-Wheeler suggested that the City make efforts to get information on this subject to the public, including how they can get involved. Mr. Corman noted that the next six months will be an optimum time for public comment, as the various strategies discussed are consolidated into one plan for the sake of environmental review.

**AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Citizen Comment: Stevenson –  
Skateboard Park

Joe Stevenson, 16312 – 119th Ave. SE, Renton, 98058, inquired about Renton’s plans to construct a skateboard park. Councilman Clawson replied that a preliminary design should be available for public review and comment in four to six weeks, but a final site has not been chosen yet.

Citizen Comment: Skuk–  
Heather Downs Park

Jenny Skuk, 4418 SE 3rd Pl., Renton, wondered if the City plans to develop publicly-owned property at the corner of Union and SE 3rd Ct. into a neighborhood park. She believed this has been planned for a while, and said it would be a valuable attribute to the community.

Chief Administrative Officer Jay Covington replied that this park, referred to as the Heather Downs Neighborhood Park, is planned for in the Parks Master Plan.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY NELSON, SECONDED BY CORMAN, COUNCIL ADJOURN.  
CARRIED. Time: 8:40 p.m.

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MARILYN J. PETERSEN, CMC, City Clerk

Recorder: Brenda Fritsvold  
May 1, 2000